

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE TOWN OF CLARKDALE**

A special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission attended by Telephonic Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 842 6439 2143. Passcode: 098659

Chairperson:	Allyn Backus
Vice Chairperson:	Cheryl Kessel (absent)
Commissioners:	Nick Wegman (absent)
	Gail Worden
	Cynthia Malla

Town Staff:
Parks and Recreation Manager
Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Joni Westcott
Chell Smart

AGENDA ITEM: CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Chairperson Backus

NEW BUSINESS:

AGENDA ITEM: JOINT WORK SESSION WITH TOWN COUNCIL AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION – A joint work session with Town Council and Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss current priorities and issues.

Commissioners introduced themselves to the Council and their length of time served on the Commission. Chairperson Backus presented the following PowerPoint presentation:



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

JOINT WORK SESSION WITH TOWN COUNCIL

February 23, 2021



Parks & Recreation Signature Community Events/Programs

- Old Fashioned Fourth of July
- Concerts in the Park
- Halloween Safe Trick-or-Treating
- Caroling in the Park
- Santa Comes to Clarkdale
- Movies in the Park
- River Adventure Day



Oversight of Amenities & Activities at Clarkdale Parks:

- Copper Penny Park
- Town Park
- Caballero Park
- Selna Mongini Park
- Centerville Park
- Lower TAPCO RAP
- Tuzigoot RAP



The Commission advised and assisted in the development of the following:

- Selna Mongini Park Master Plan Concept
- Movies in the Park community events
- Verde River at Clarkdale Programming-Family River Adventure Day
- Recreation elements selection at Copper Penny Park in Crossroads
- I Love My Parks & Trails Program
- Recreation and Open Space elements of the 2022 General Plan
- Community Partnership program for Concerts in the Park program sustainability
- Pickleball courts and equipment placement at Centerville Park
- 2020 Parks and Recreation Survey

2021 PRIORITIES

- Safe re-introduction of community events & programs
- Selna Mongini Park project
- Development of Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan
- Trail development and maintenance
- Promotion of recreational opportunities to residents and visitors, including ethics of use:
 - Community parks
 - River parks including protection of water resource and riparian areas
 - Trails

Manager Westcott noted that the Selna Mongini Park concept will be addressed with Council during the upcoming meeting.

Councilmember O'Neill thanked the Commission for their volunteer efforts. She also inquired about the Dorothy Benatz Trail being open again for the public in Lower Clarkdale. Town Manager Hlavinka described ongoing efforts to finalize an access agreement with the landowners before repairs to the trestle can be made and public access can be restored.

Councilwoman Babbitt-Pierce expressed support for the 2021 priorities noted in the presentation and thanked the Commission for their past and future work.

Vice Mayor Hunseder noted her appreciation for the Parks and Recreation Commission members and noted that she looks forward to a time when events can safely resume.

Councilman Regner stated his appreciation of the work that the Parks and Recreation Commission does, as well as commending their flexibility over 2020, adapting their work to projects that could be completed during the COVID-19 pandemic. He inquired whether the Parks and Recreation Commission had completed their portion of the General Planning process. Community Development Department Director, Ruth Mayday, stated that the Parks and Recreation and Open Space Element is currently scheduled for discussion during the next General Plan Committee meeting in March. She does not anticipate that future involvement by the Parks and Recreation Commission will be needed as the submitted product appears to be thoroughly developed. Councilman Regner inquired about the future of the Upper TAPCO river access development. Manager Westcott noted that the property owner is not open to developing that area at this time but that it is on the radar for future inquiry. Councilman Regner asked about progress on the trail development plan. Manager Westcott explained that the Commission, per community input, has prioritized trails in 2021 and staff will be pursuing easements with property owners as resources and time

allows. Councilmen Regner thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission for their work, especially in light of special challenges posed by COVID-19.

A discussion was had regarding a Community Garden and potential community partners. Mayor Prud'homme-Bauer noted her thanks to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their volunteer efforts and expressed support for a future Community Garden in a more appropriate location.

Parks and Recreation Manager Westcott noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission has supported creative alternative experiences in lieu of the Town's traditional community events that were unable to move forward due to COVID-19. The Commission will discuss the safe reintroduction of community events in 2021.

The Council invited the Parks and Recreation Commission to schedule future joint meetings if they feel there is an item in need of discussion with the Council.

AGENDA ITEM: ADJOURNMENT

With no objection, meeting adjourned at 3:33 PM.

APPROVED:

Chairperson, Allyn Backus

SUBMITTED BY:

Parks and Recreation Coordinator, Chell Smart